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25th November 1991

JHB/VT/32772

Dear Beverly

PM 1455 EPO and Japan  
Reflection Sleeve for Flavour Generating Article  
Our File 32772

Thank you for your letter of 13 November enclosing an office action,  
reference and amendment.

I have briefly reviewed these and can understand the reasoning behind the amendments filed in the US application. All the claims in this case are directed to a reflector sleeve or to a method or blank for making it. Such claims to the sleeve in isolation are inevitably vulnerable to prior art directed to different purposes. It is particularly interesting to note that the prior art in this case is in the field of tobacco smoking, although having nothing to do with the particular problem faced by the present invention.

The amendment made in the US case is very appropriate and could usefully be adopted elsewhere. In the EPO, amendments of claims are not accepted until the search report has issued but I will make a note on my file to review the situation when the report is received. If you have any comment on this suggestion please let me know.

As for the Japanese application, I will inform our associate of the situation so that any desirable action in Japan can be taken in due course.

Yours sincerely

J. H. Bass

cc: Jeff Ingberman ✓

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